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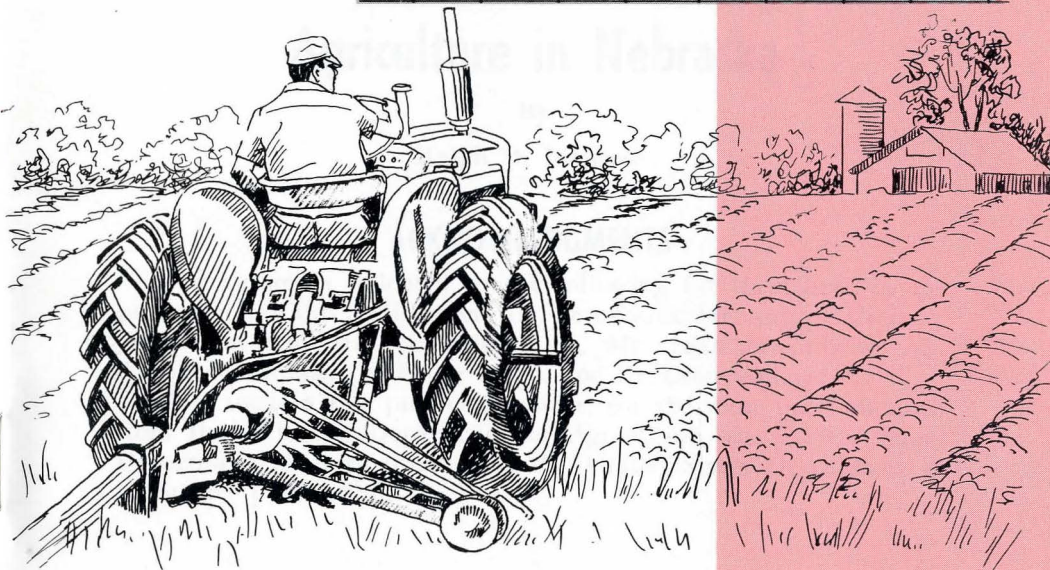
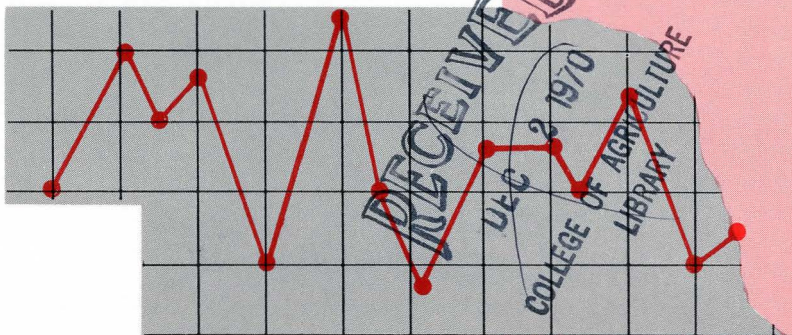
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# AGRICULTURE IN NEBRASKA



ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, U.S.D.A.  
and

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS,  
AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING. E. F. FROLIK, DEAN; J. L. ADAMS, DIRECTOR

# Agriculture in Nebraska

By

Ralph D. Johnson<sup>1</sup>

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author is indebted to the following for their help in the preparation of this publication: Dr. Bert Evans, Mr. Ralston Graham, Dr. Glenn Helmers, Dr. Arlen Lutz, Mr. John Muehlbeier, Mr. Arnold Nordquist, Dr. Foster Owen, and Dr. Glen Vollmar.

Data used in this publication were, for the most part, obtained from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the United States Department of Commerce publications.

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<sup>1</sup> Agricultural Economist, Farm Production Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, stationed at Lincoln, Nebraska.



## DID YOU KNOW THAT:

Nebraska is approximately 400 miles long and 200 miles wide.

Nebraska is the 15th largest state, with a land area of 49,032,000 acres.

Nineteen percent of the people in Nebraska live on farms.

There are 78,000 farms and ranches in Nebraska, with an average size of 617 acres.

The total investment in Nebraska farms and ranches exceeds nine billion dollars.

Nebraska farmers had cash receipts of 1.68 billion dollars and production expenses of 1.41 billion dollars in 1967.

Cash receipts from livestock are about twice that from crops.

Cash receipts from cattle and calves are more than twice that of all other livestock combined.

Corn is still king in Nebraska. It is the number one grain crop both in terms of acres harvested and cash receipts. Cash receipts from corn are about equal to the combined receipts from the second and third most important grain crops—wheat and grain sorghum.

Nebraska has the largest livestock market in the world, located at Omaha.

Nebraska ranks high among the states in the production of agricultural products:

**First** in alfalfa meal, wild hay, and great northern (navy) beans.

**Second** in beef cows and heifers, fed cattle and calves marketed, commercial cattle slaughter, commercial livestock slaughter, and sorghum silage production.

**Third** in total value of all livestock and poultry on farms and ranches, all cattle and calves, beef steers, grain and forage sorghum production, hairy vetch, and capacity of commercial grain storage facilities.

**Fourth** in winter wheat, rye, and pinto bean production.

**Fifth** in sheep and lambs on feed, commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, commercial hog slaughter, and in the production of corn for grain, alfalfa hay, all hay, dry edible beans, and sweet clover seed.

**Sixth** in hogs and pigs on farms and in butter and popcorn production.

**Seventh** in harvested acres and in value of crops produced.

## IMPORTANCE OF NEBRASKA'S AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is Nebraska's most important industry. It accounts for about 45 percent (44.7) of the value added by all industry groups.<sup>2</sup> Agriculture and the agriculturally-related Food and Kindred Products sector account for almost two-thirds of the total (65.3 percent).

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<sup>2</sup> Value added is the difference between the material and labor cost of the product and the amount received by the producer for the product.

# Value industry group, Nebraska, 1966.

Industry Group	Million dollars	Percent
Agriculture <sup>a</sup>	803	44.7
Food and Kindred Products	370	20.6
Electrical Machinery	93	5.2
Machinery, except Electrical	92	5.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	69	3.8
Printing and Publishing	58	3.2
Primary Metal Industries	55	3.1
Fabricated Metal Products	52	2.9
Transportation Equipment	45	2.5
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	33	1.8
Instruments and Related Products	31	1.7
Rubber and Plastic Products	26	1.5
All Other	70	3.9

<sup>a</sup> Value added in agriculture is cash receipts from farm marketings plus value of home consumption less purchased inputs, except labor (feed, livestock, seed, fertilizer, repairs and operation of capital items, and miscellaneous production expenses).

## Nebraska agriculture receipts, 1960, 1965, 1966, and 1967.<sup>a</sup>

Item	1960	1965	1966	1967 <sup>b</sup>
	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars
<b>Crops:</b>				
Corn	200	149	195	238
Wheat	137	74	126	132
Grain Sorghum	42	70	100	91
Soybeans	10	30	36	55
Other Crops	46	57	62	57
Total	445	379	521	573
<b>Livestock:</b>				
Cattle and Calves	511	659	818	844
Hogs	137	207	227	212
Dairy Products	53	55	61	63
Poultry, Eggs, and Miscellaneous	49	37	39	31
Sheep and Lambs	17	13	14	12
Total	767	970	1,160	1,162
Total Sales	1,212	1,349	1,681	1,735
Government Payments	22	185	175	135
<b>Value of Home Consumption Items plus Rental Value of Farm Dwellings</b>				
	60	63	63	60
Net Change in Inventory	44	105	112	17
Realized Gross Farm Income	1,338	1,702	2,032	1,947

<sup>a</sup> Individual items may not add to totals due to rounding.

<sup>b</sup> Preliminary.

**Nebraska agriculture expenses, 1960, 1965, 1966, 1967<sup>a</sup>**

Item	1960	1965	1966	1967 <sup>b</sup>
	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars
<b>Fixed Costs:</b>				
Depreciation	144	188	198	216
Taxes	71	92	102	108
Interest on				
Farm Mortgages	17	26	30	33
Net Rent to Landlord	68	83	111	84
Total	300	389	441	441
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>				
Feed	157	193	219	227
Livestock Purchases	171	230	312	303
Seed	15	15	15	16
Fertilizer and Lime	33	52	68	77
Repairs and Maintenance	141	157	164	172
Labor	46	35	41	39
Miscellaneous	77	104	122	133
Total	640	786	941	967
Total Production Expense	940	1,175	1,382	1,408
Net Farm Income	398	526	648	539

<sup>a</sup> Individual items may not add to totals due to rounding.

<sup>b</sup> Preliminary.

## VALUE OF SALES

Sales per farm in Nebraska in 1968 averaged \$22,262. Value of sales, number of farms, and percent of commercial farms by economic class are shown in the table below.

**Value of sales, number of farms and percent of commercial farms  
by economic class.**

Economic class	Value of sales	Number of commercial farms <sup>a</sup>	Percent of total farms
I	\$40,000 or more	4,904	6.1
II	20,000 - 39,999	10,766	13.4
III	10,000 - 19,999	20,993	26.2
IV	5,000 - 9,999	20,130	25.1
V	2,500 - 4,999	11,332	14.1
VI	Less than 2,500	3,229	4.0

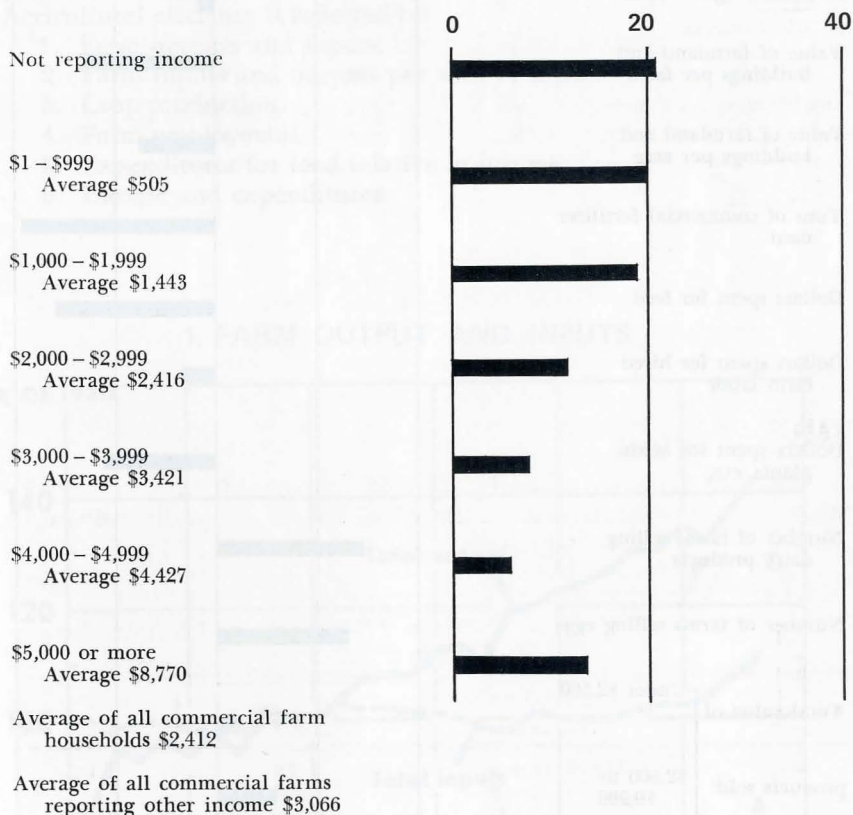
43.2

<sup>a</sup> In 1964, 71,344 of the State's 80,163 farms were classified as commercial.

## FARM INCOME

In 1965, nineteen percent of the people in Nebraska lived on farms. Farm income, however, accounted for only 14 percent of the State's personal income. This unenviable situation prevails in spite of a relatively rapid decline in both the number of farms and in the number of people living on farms. Nebraska still has (1964) a relatively large number of commercial farms (43.2%) that do not yield net farm incomes above the \$3,000 level.<sup>3</sup> Present trends with respect to farm size, number of farms, and number of people living on farms will probably continue.

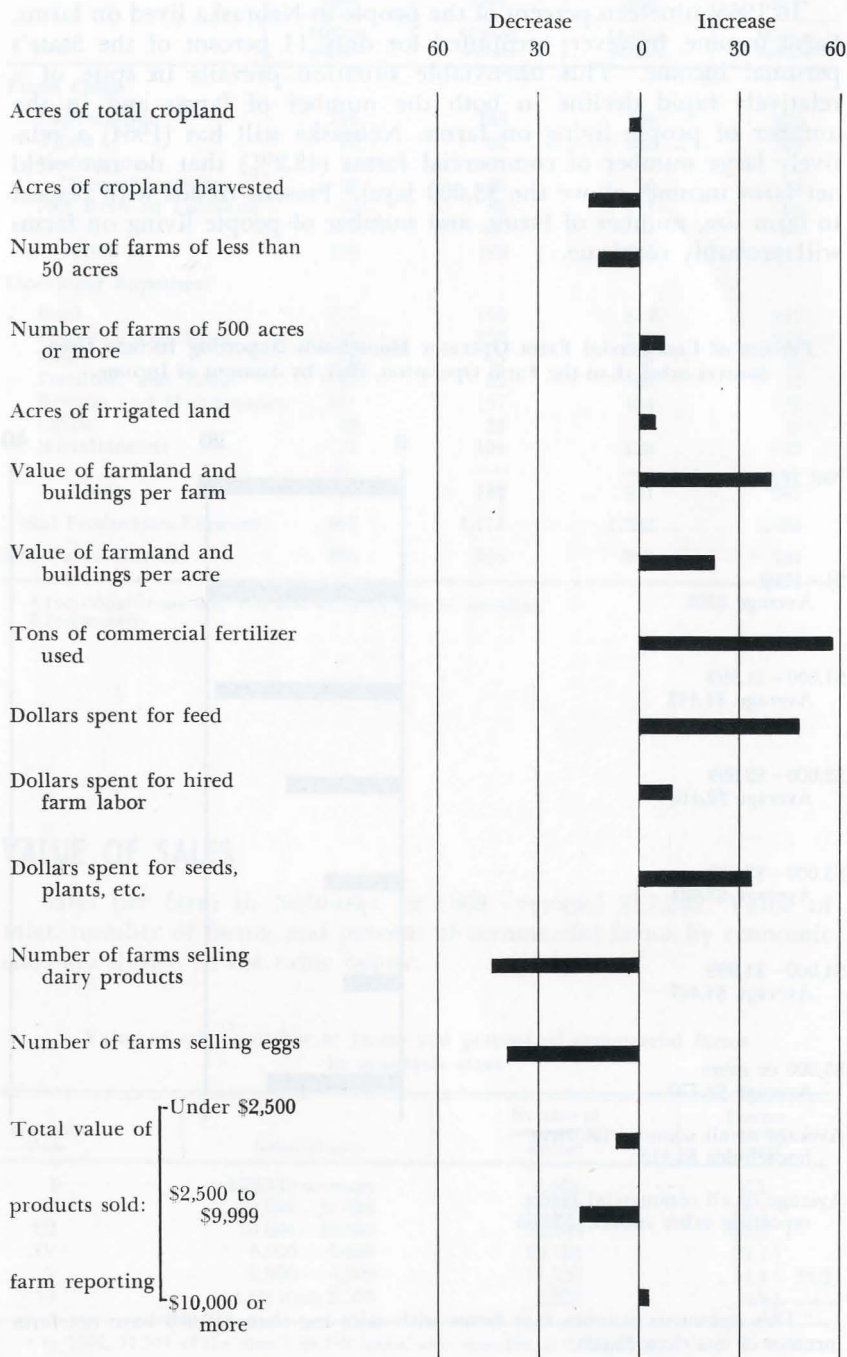
**Percent of Commercial Farm Operator Households Reporting Income from Sources other than the Farm Operation, 1964, by Amount of Income.**



<sup>3</sup> This statement assumes that farms with sales less than \$10,000 have net farm incomes of less than \$3,000.



Percent change in selected measures of agriculture in Nebraska, 1959 to 1964.





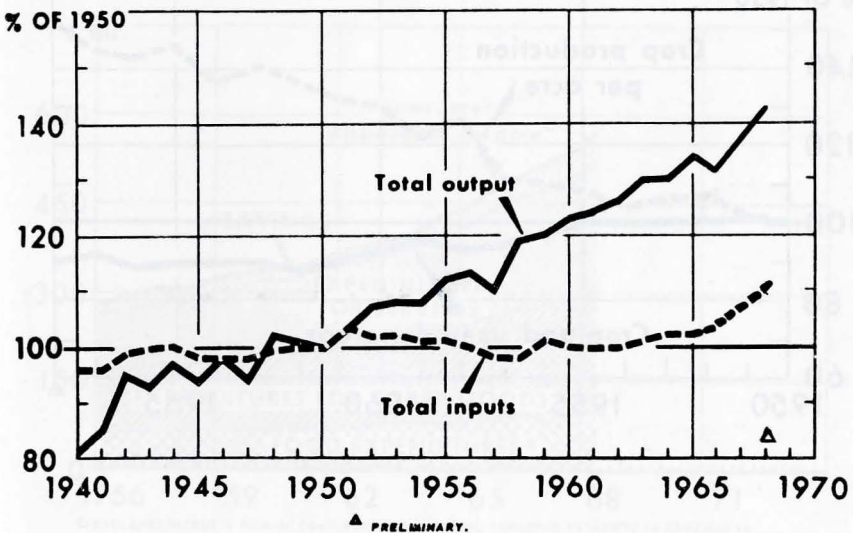
## AGRICULTURAL EFFICIENCY

Agriculture has often been depicted as inefficient but few industries can match agriculture's performance of a 77 percent increase in output with only a 15 percent increase in inputs (1940-1968). Agricultural efficiency has benefited both the consumer and the other sectors of the economy by reducing the number of people needed to supply the agricultural needs of the nonfarm population and by reducing the proportion of disposable income spent for food. While the efficiency measures used here (1-6) are not available for a specific state, the *United States figures are considered representative of what has happened in Nebraska.*

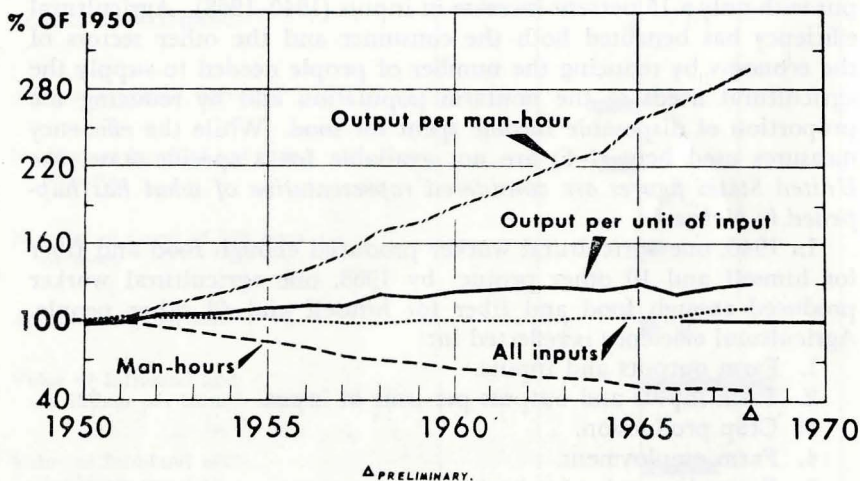
In 1940, one agricultural worker produced enough food and fiber for himself and 10 other people; by 1968, one agricultural worker produced enough food and fiber for himself and 44 other people. Agricultural efficiency is reflected in:

1. Farm outputs and inputs.
2. Farm inputs and outputs per unit of input.
3. Crop production.
4. Farm employment.
5. Expenditures for food relative to income.
6. Income and expenditures.

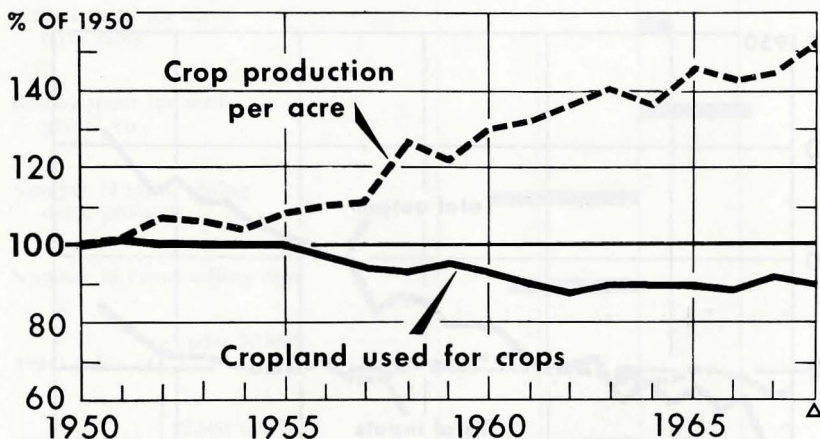
### 1. FARM OUTPUT AND INPUTS



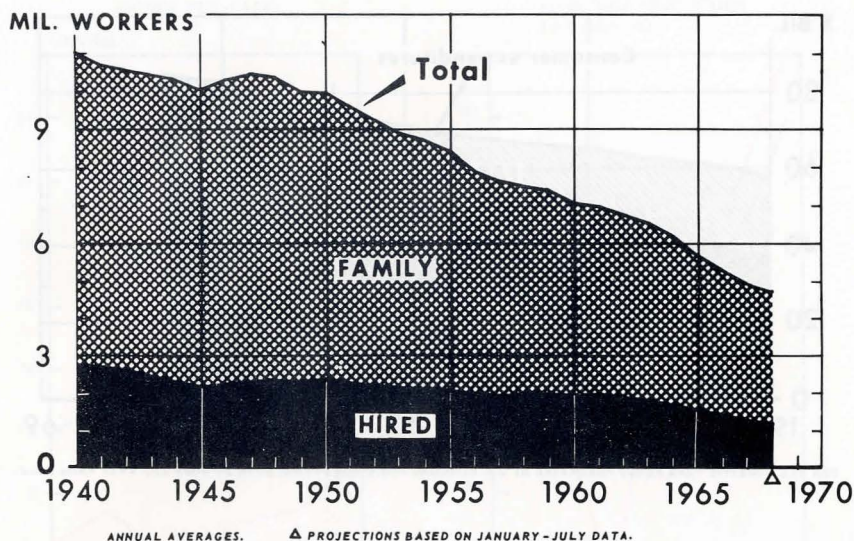
## 2. FARM INPUTS AND OUTPUT PER UNIT OF INPUT



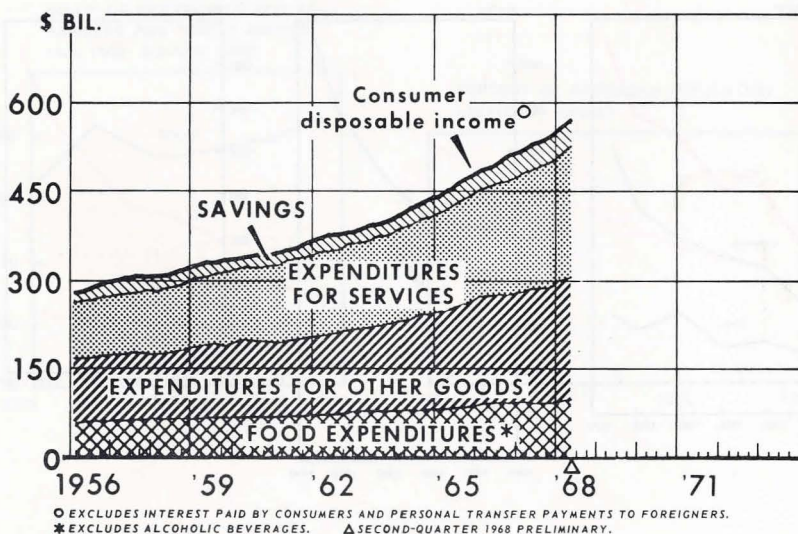
## 3. CROP PRODUCTION



#### 4. FARM EMPLOYMENT

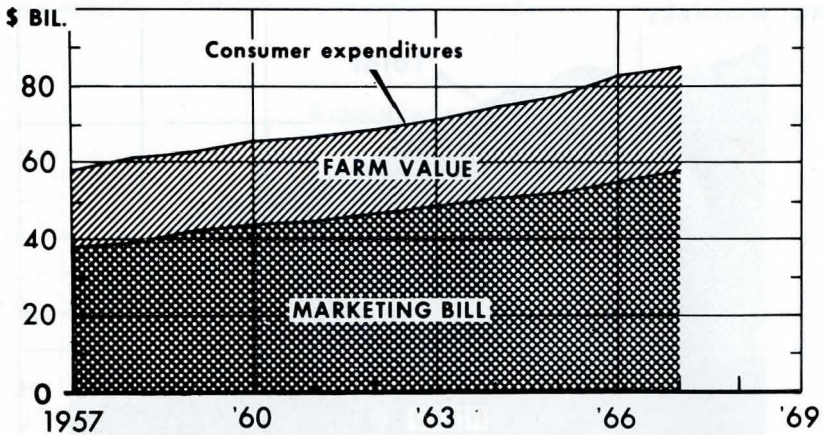


#### 5. FOOD EXPENDITURES RELATIVE TO INCOME



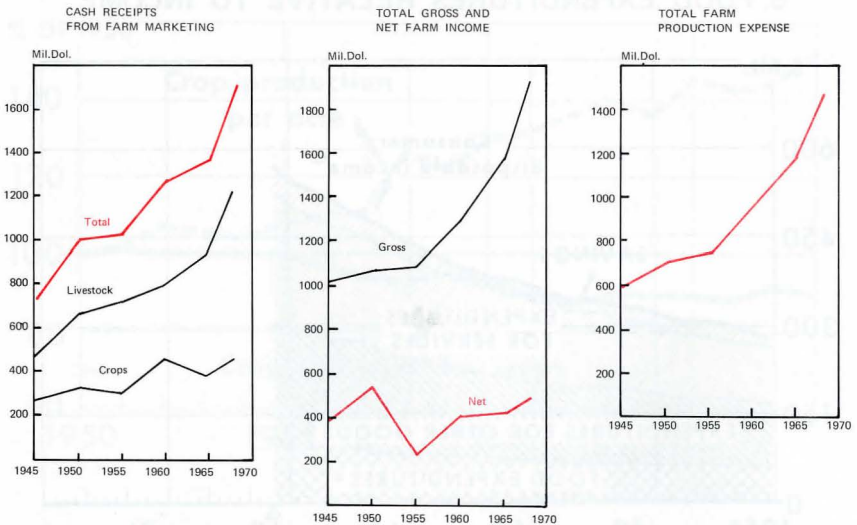


## 6. INCOME AND EXPENDITURES



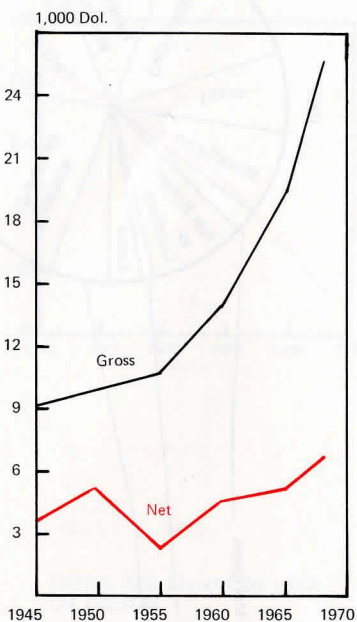
FOR ALL DOMESTIC FARM FOODS PURCHASED BY U.S. CIVILIANS FOR CONSUMPTION, BOTH AT HOME AND AWAY FROM HOME.

## THE DYNAMICS OF NEBRASKA'S AGRICULTURE

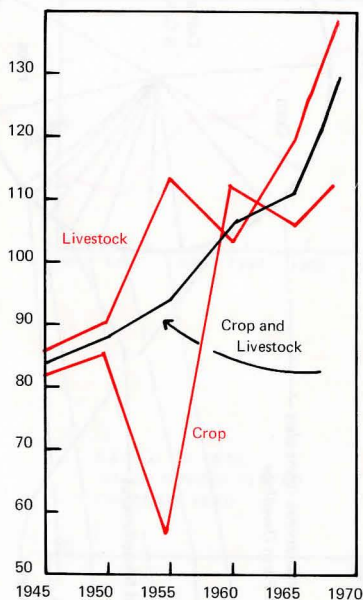




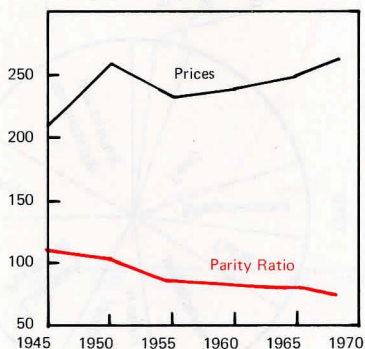
GROSS AND NET  
INCOME PER FARM



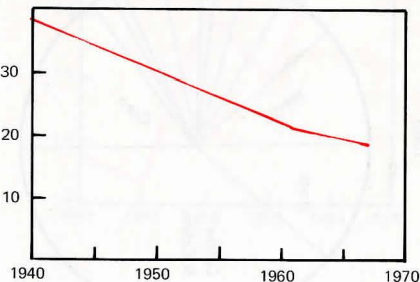
INDEX OF CROP AND  
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION  
1957-1959=100



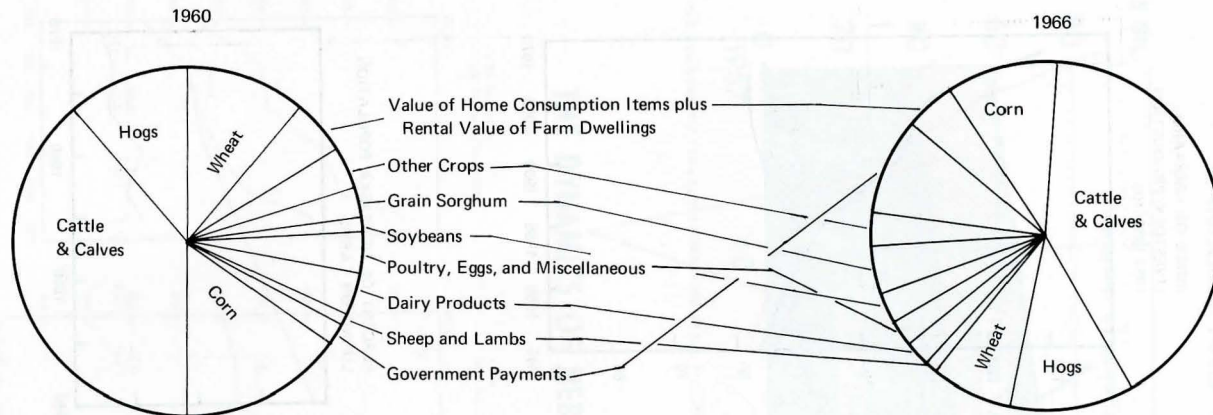
INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY  
FARMERS AND PARITY RATIOS  
(Aug. 1909 - July 1914 = 100)



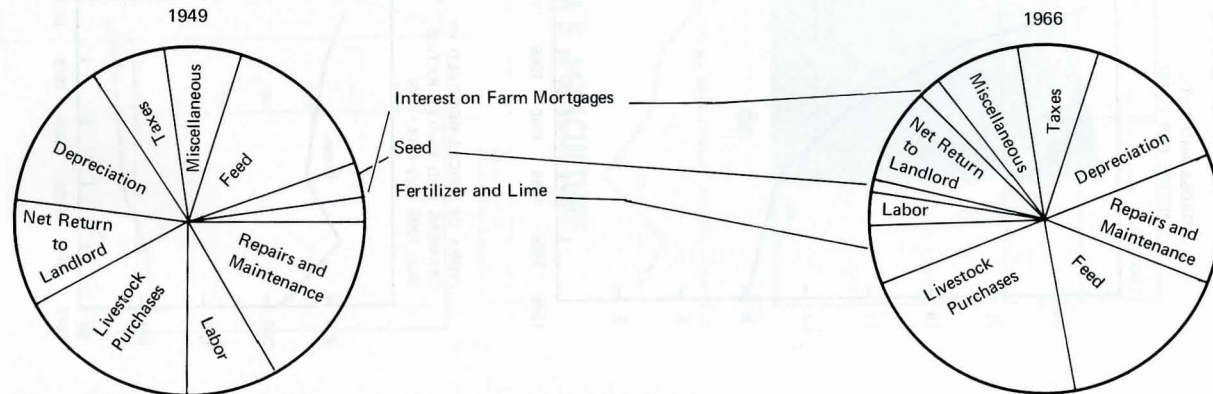
PERCENT OF NEBRASKA POPULATION  
LIVING ON FARMS



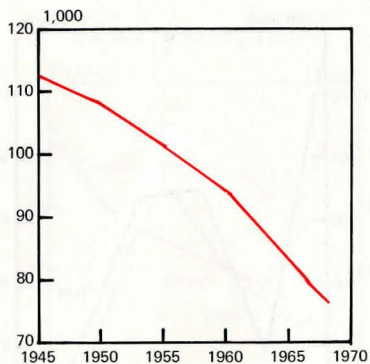
# REALIZED GROSS INCOME



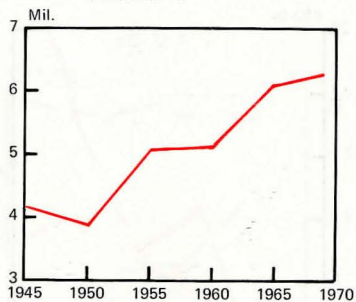
# FARM PRODUCTION EXPENSES



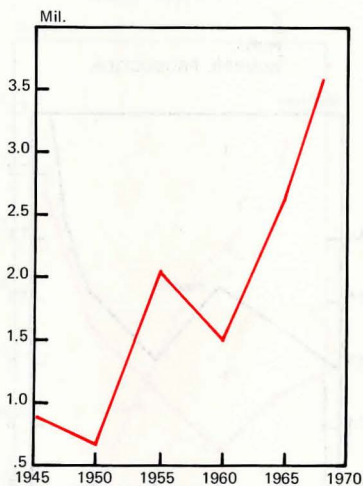
NUMBER OF FARMS



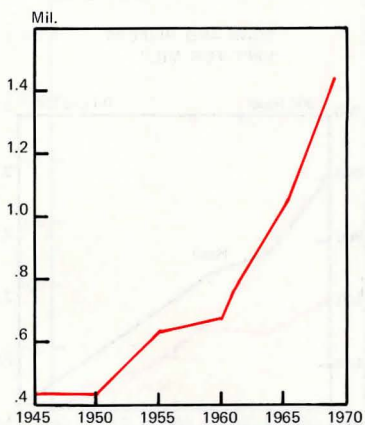
CATTLE ON FARMS,  
JANUARY 1



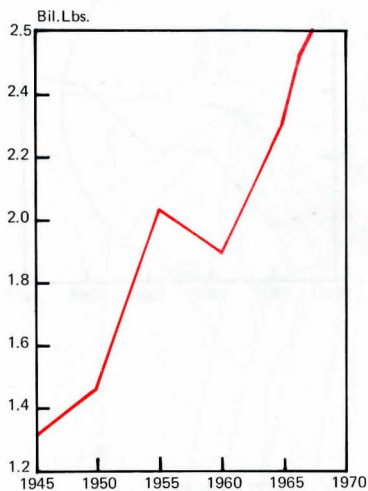
CATTLE ON FEED,  
TOTAL NUMBER PLACED  
ON GRAIN FEED



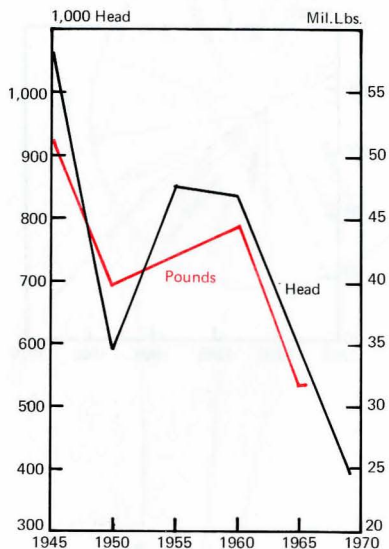
CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED  
ON JANUARY 1



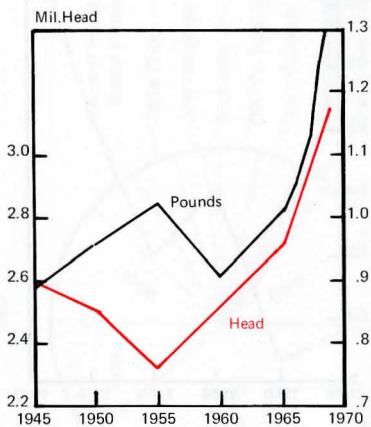
CATTLE AND CALVES,  
PRODUCTION



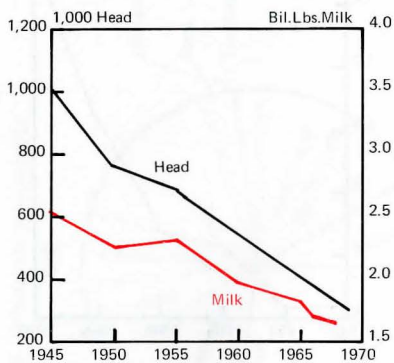
SHEEP,  
NUMBER, PRODUCTION



HOGS,  
NUMBER, PRODUCTION

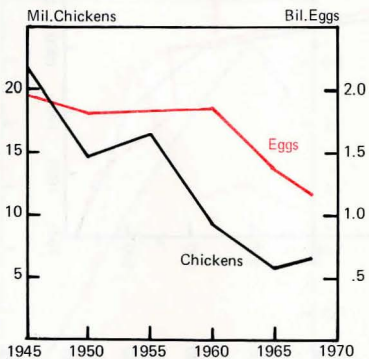


COWS AND HEIFERS  
KEPT FOR MILK

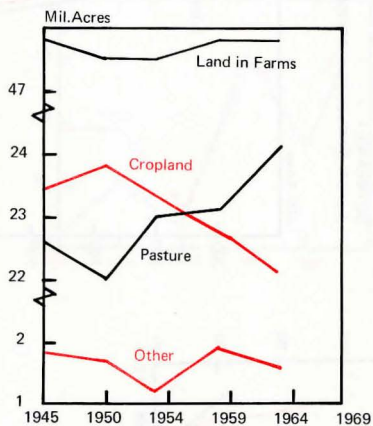




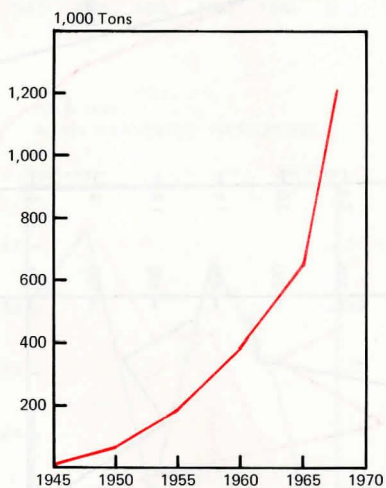
CHICKENS,  
NUMBER, PRODUCTION (EGGS)



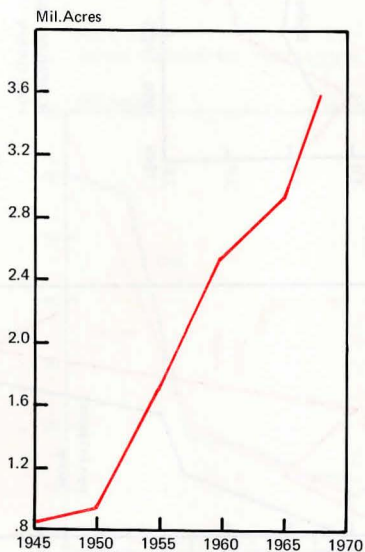
LAND USE



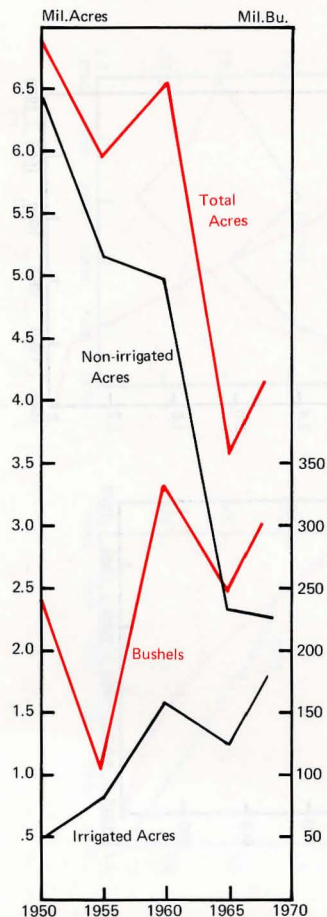
COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER USED



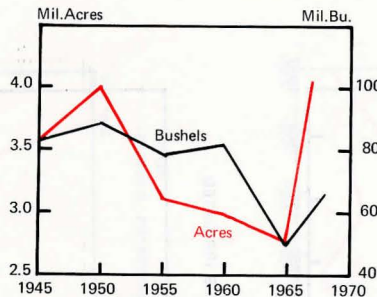
ACRES IRRIGATED



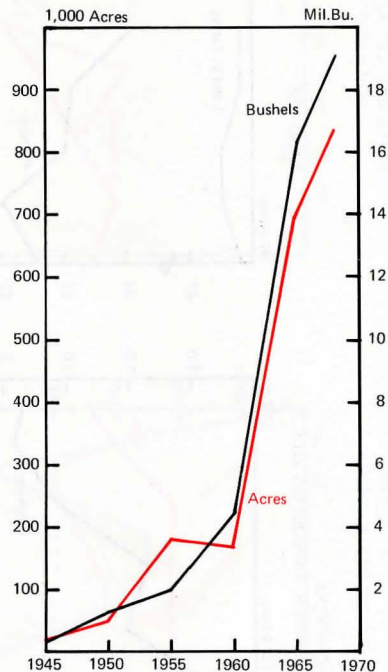
CORN HARVESTED  
FOR GRAIN



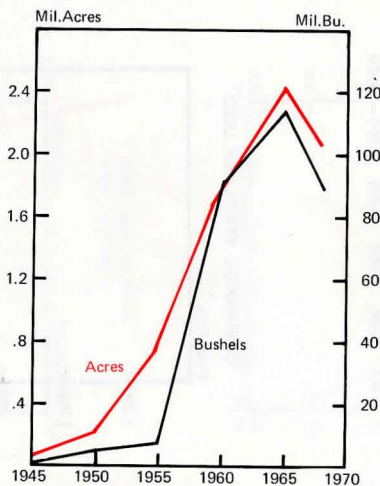
WINTER WHEAT,  
ACRES HARVESTED, PRODUCTION



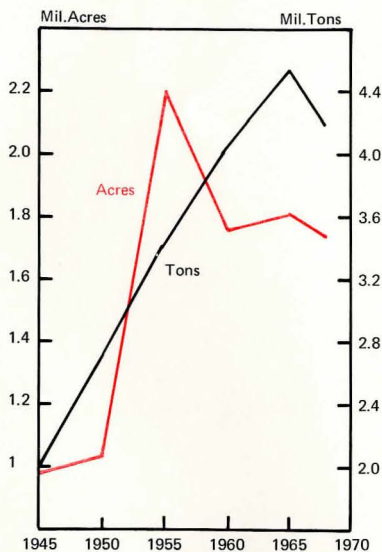
SOYBEANS,  
ACRES HARVESTED, PRODUCTION



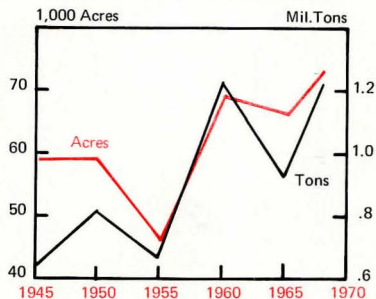
SORGHUM HARVESTED  
FOR GRAIN



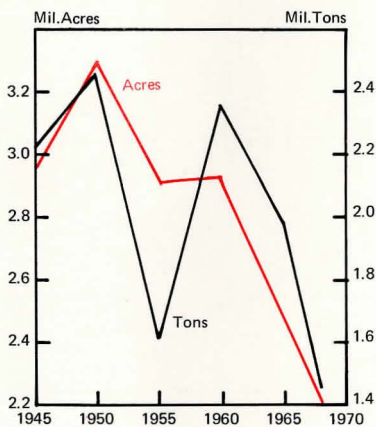
ALFALFA HAY,  
ACRES HARVESTED, PRODUCTION



SUGAR BEETS,  
ACRES HARVESTED, PRODUCTION



WILD HAY,  
ACRES HARVESTED, PRODUCTION



POTATOES,  
ACRES HARVESTED, PRODUCTION

